

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached 3 replacement sheets of drawings, including Figures 6 and 14-17, replace the original drawing sheets including Figures 6 and 14-17. More specifically, Figures 6, 14, and 17 of the drawings have been amended to correct reference character errors. Each replacement sheet of the drawings has been clearly labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header.

Attachment: 3 Replacement Sheets of drawings including Figures 6 and 14-17.

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-13, and 17-19 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 10, and 14-16 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, and 17 have been amended. Claim 1 is in independent form.

The specification has been amended to correct minor editorial errors. No new matter has been added to the specification.

Applicants have attached replacement drawing sheets hereto directly following these Remarks. Each replacement drawing sheet has been labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header as per 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d).

In amended Figure 6, a prime has been added to item 10 to correspond with the description in paragraph [0050]. Additionally, an arrowhead has been added to the leader line of item 44 to correspond with the description in paragraph [0028].

In amended Figure 14, item 108''' has been changed to 104''' to correspond with the description in paragraph [0043].

And in amended Figure 17, item 10''' has been changed to 10'''' to correspond with paragraph [0062]. Additionally, an arrowhead has been added to the leader line of item 44 to correspond with the description in paragraph [0028].

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amended drawings.

1-2. Claims 5, 14, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner states that there is no antecedent basis for the limitation "said channel" in claim 5. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to set forth a channel. Since claim 5 depends from claim 1, there is proper antecedent basis for the limitation of "said channel" in claim 5.

The Examiner states that there is no antecedent basis for the limitation "said channel" in claim 14. Applicants point out that claim 14 has been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

The Examiner also states that there is no antecedent basis for the limitation "said sliding bracket" in claim 16. Applicants point out that claim 16 has also been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Further, the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "said channel" in claim 18. As mentioned above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to set forth a channel. Since claim 18 depends from claim 1, there is proper antecedent basis for the limitation of "said channel" in claim 18.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5, 14, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite be withdrawn.

3-4. Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 2,931,528 to Mabry ("the '528 reference"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The '528 reference discloses a roof rack assembly having a pair of rails 9 fixedly secured to the roof 11, extending generally parallel to each other. A tray 1 has a first end 5 with opposite sides pivotally and slidably engaging the rails 9 and movable between a forward end and an aft end thereof. The roof rack assembly also includes a pair of arms 57 pivotally coupled to opposite sides of a second end 7 of the tray 1.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 of the above-captioned application to incorporate the allowable subject matter set forth in original claim 16. More specifically, amended claim 1 includes the limitation of "a link arm pivotally extending between one of said pair of rails and said tray, said link arm including a slide bushing disposed within said upper housing and movable therealong as said sliding bracket moves along one of said rails." The '528 reference does not disclose the limitation of a link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 1, and claim 9 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the '528 reference be withdrawn.

5-6. Claims 2 through 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '528 reference. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Each of claims 2-4 depend from independent claim 1 and as such, each is construed to incorporate by reference all of the limitations of the claim to which it refers, *see* 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph. Claim 1, as amended, includes the allowable subject matter set forth in original claim 16. More specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation of a link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails. Therefore, each of claims 2-4 includes the limitation of a link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails. The '528 reference does not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for the link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2 through 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '528 reference be withdrawn.

7. Claims 5-8, 14, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '528 reference in view of United States Patent 4,295,588 to Kowalski et al. ("the '588 reference"). The '528 reference is disclosed above. The '588 reference discloses a rail receiving bracket 114 that is slidable within a guidepath 118 extending along a side rail 110. The rail receiving bracket 114 can be readily locked in any desired position along the side rail 110. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have cancelled claims 14 and 15, rendering the rejection thereof as moot. With regard to claims 5-8 and 17, Applicants note that each of claims 5-8 and 17 depends from independent claim 1 and as such, each is construed to incorporate by reference all of the limitations of the claim to which it refers, *see* 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph. Claim 1, as amended, includes the allowable subject matter set forth in original claim 16. More specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation of a link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails. Therefore, each of claims 5-8 and 17 includes the limitation of a link arm including a slide

bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along a pair of rails. The '528 and '588 references do not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for the link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along a pair of rails.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5-8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by the '528 reference in view of the '588 reference be withdrawn.

8. Claims 10 through 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '528 reference in view of Unites States Patent 6,084,326 to Nagai et al. ("the '326 reference"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 10 of the above-captioned application has been cancelled, rendering the rejection thereof moot. Claims 11-13 depend from independent claim 1 and as such, each is construed to incorporate by reference all of the limitations of the claim to which it refers, *see* 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph. Claim 1, as amended, includes the allowable subject matter set forth in original claim 16. More specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation of a link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails. Therefore, each of claims 11-13 includes the limitation of a link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails. The '528 and '326 references do not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for the link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by the '528 reference in view of the '326 reference be withdrawn.

9. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '528 reference in view of Unites States Patent 3,885,471 to Morine et al. ("the '471 reference"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 18 and 19 depend from independent claim 1 and as such, each is construed to incorporate by reference all of the limitations of the claim to which it refers, *see* 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph. Claim 1, as amended, includes the allowable subject matter set forth in original claim 16. More specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation of a link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails. Therefore, each of claims 18 and 19 includes the limitation of a link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails. The '528 and '471 references do not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for the link arm including a slide bushing disposed within an upper housing and movable therealong as a sliding bracket moves along one of a pair of rails.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by the '528 reference in view of the '471 reference be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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